Death ride on Air India Airbus

616. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Indian Express, Bombay of the 30th September, 1989, captioned "Death ride on Air India Airbus" ;

(b) whether Government have ordered any enquiry into the incident;

(c) if so, what are the details of the report of the said enquiry and what action has been taken so far ; and

(d) if no action has been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The incident was enquired into by the Controller of Airworthiness, Civil Aviation Department who found that the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer was blameworthy for perfunctory inspection resulting in the damage to the main landing gear axle of aircraft. The AME concerned has been punished by the competent authority. He was not posted to Hong Kong but sent for training. This snag could not have caused risk of life to the passengers.

Recruitment in Air India

617. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that out of State candidates are not recruited by Air India in certain categories ;

(b) if so, whether Government approve of such a policy in the public sector ;

(c) whether the Air India authorities have received any representation alleging discrimination in this behalf ; and

(d) if so, whit are details of the policy and Air India's stand thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a), (b) and (d) Air India recruits all categories of officers like Personnel Officers, Assistant Station Superintendents, Jr. Technical Officers, Engineers, Medical Officers and Co-Pilots on an all India basis. Certain non-officer categories like Aircraft Technicians, Asstt. Flight Pursers and Airhostesses are also recruited on an all India basis. Certain other non-officer categories like Clerks, Typists, Stenographers, Traffic Assistants etc. are recruited through the on-line stations where the demand for the post exists. In such cases, these posts are notified to the Employment Exchange in the concerned State as well as to the various SC/ST, Ex-Servicemen Organisations and advertised in the local press. Recruitment procedures for the posts taken into account the instructions issued by Central and State Governments.

(c) One complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of domicile had been received from a candidates who subsequently filed a writ petition in the Bombay High Court.

Reduction in Air Fare from Trivandrum to Gulf Countries

618. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to reduce the air fare between Trivandrum and Gulf countries in direct flights which do not touch Bombay ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and